

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

March 31, 1982

Mr. James A. Cunningham Jr.



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Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Bob Mikesh and I enjoyed meeting with you to discuss the forthcoming presentation of the U-2 to the National Air and Space Museum (NASM).

While we are quite pleased with the arrangements that have been made so far we prefer that the aircraft be delivered in as close to an actual flight configuration as possible. That is, with all the avionics and other equipment included, excepting of course, pyrotechnics and classified items. Although exhibits are our most visible function we consider the preservation of aviation technology more important. This is impossible without the equipment that allows the aircraft to perform its mission.

It will be several years before we could exhibit the U-2 in the NASM building as our exhibits require a great deal of lead time. The aircraft will, however, be exhibited at our Garber Facility in the interim. We are in the process of clearing out the building at the Garber Facility in which we would exhibit the U-2. Since that task will not be completed until late summer we would prefer not to receive the U-2 until early fall.

The turnover ceremony would be at the Garber Facility. Our Director or Assistant Director would officially receive the aircraft from the designated CIA official. We will be glad to provide a photographer.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in this project. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Lopez  
Chairman  
Aeronautics Department